



Long-Duration Winter Weather Threat

January 31, 2022
3:23 PM

Tuesday, February 1 to Thursday, February 3, 2022

Key Messages

- Two rounds of winter weather are expected to impact part of our area this week
 - ◆ **Round 1:** Tuesday night - Wednesday AM
 - ◆ **Round 2:** [Lower Confidence] Wednesday Night - Thursday. This may set up more across central IL.

Snow intensity should briefly diminish between the two rounds

- Confidence in **significant snowfall totals (over 7")** from **Round 1** is increasing, especially for areas near and south of a Pontiac - Kankakee - Valparaiso line
- Amounts expected to decrease as you head north and west

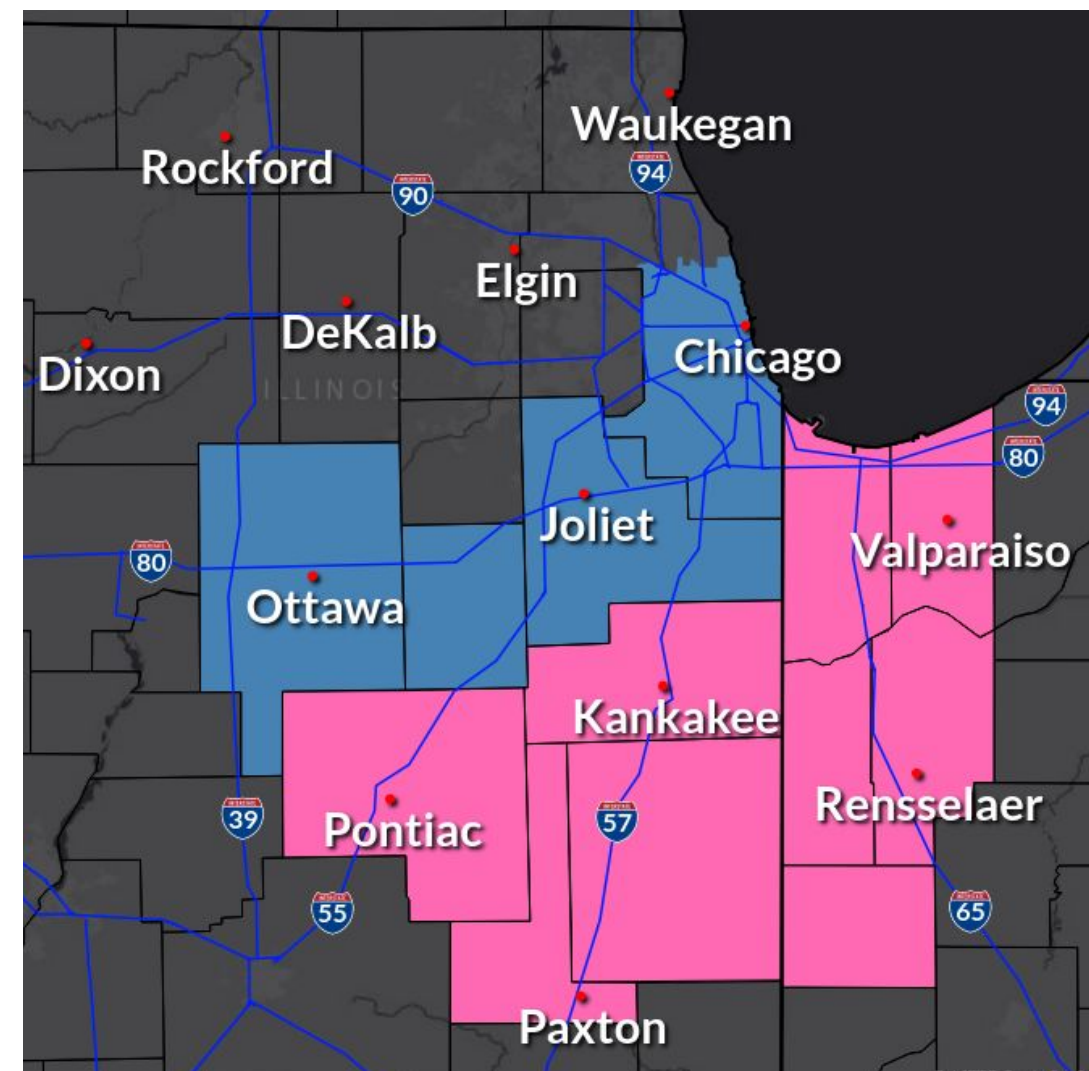
NEW

Important Updates

- **Winter Storm Warnings** have been issued for parts of the area

Next Scheduled Briefing

- By 6 AM CST on 2/1



Winter Storm Warnings (Pink)
Winter Storm Watches (Blue)



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Chicago, Illinois



Round 1: Tuesday Night - Wednesday AM

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Confidence in Significant Snow Totals Increasing



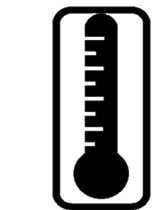
Timing:

Rain will develop Tuesday afternoon, change to snow after sunset, and taper towards noon on Wednesday.



Snow Rates:

Steady between 0.5 and 0.75"/hr. **Rates >1"/hr possible ~ 4 - 10 AM.**



Temperatures and snow "type":

Upper 20s to lower 30s leading to a wetter/heavier snow (ratios around 10:1)



Snow Totals:

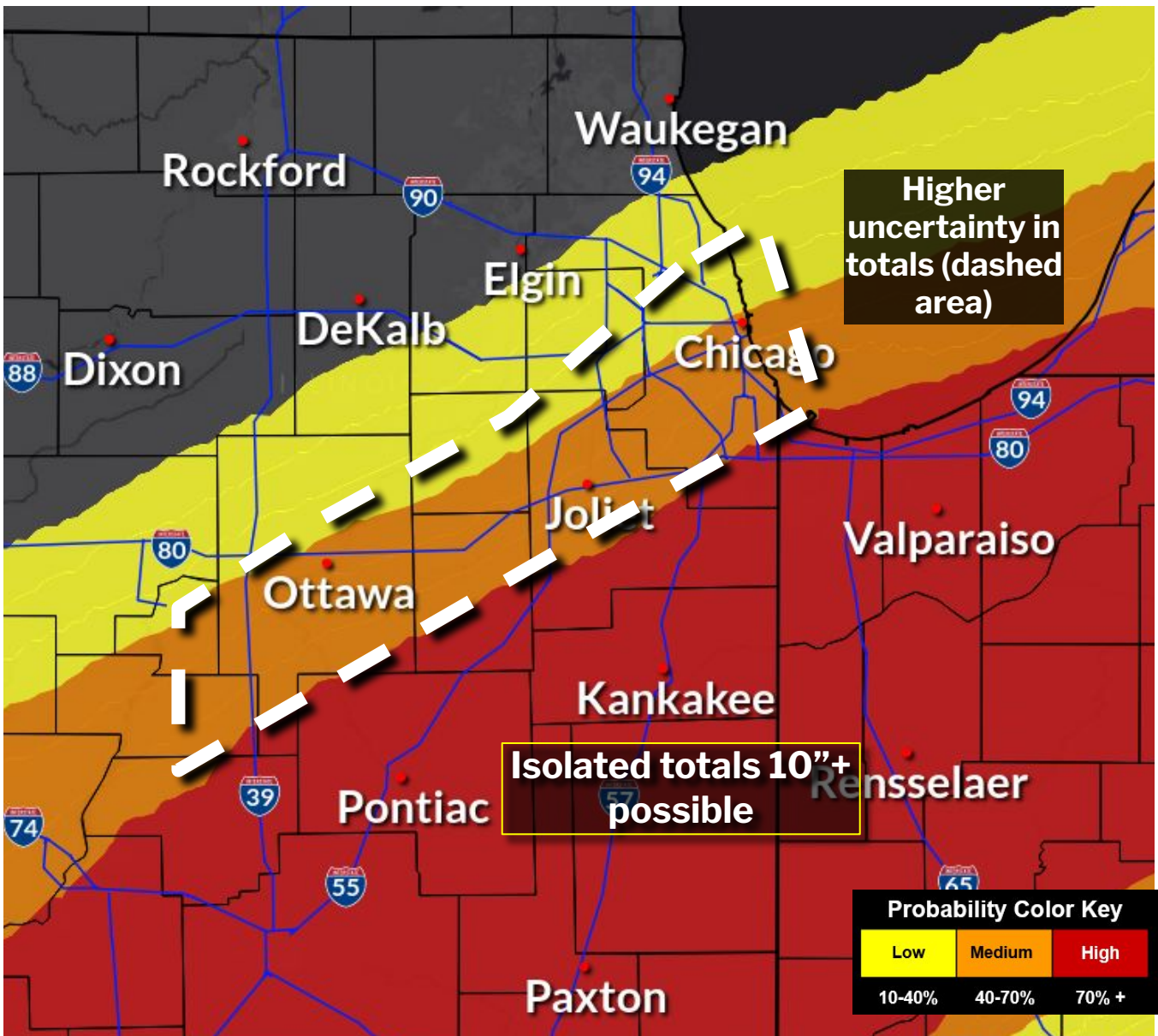
Confidence in snow totals > 6" is highest in the red-shaded area.



What are the lingering uncertainties?

Snow gradient near an Ottawa - Joliet - Chicago line.

Chance for > 6" of snow



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Round 2: Wednesday night to Thursday Mid-day



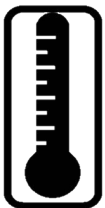
Storm track remains uncertain!

Heaviest snow could set up near/south of Kankakee River Valley.



Snow Rates:

~0.5"/hr. Locally up to 1"/hr. Additional snow totals >4-5" possible (in red shared area)



Temperatures and snow "type":

Upper teens to low 20s, with snow ratios near 11-13:1



Some Uncertainty North:

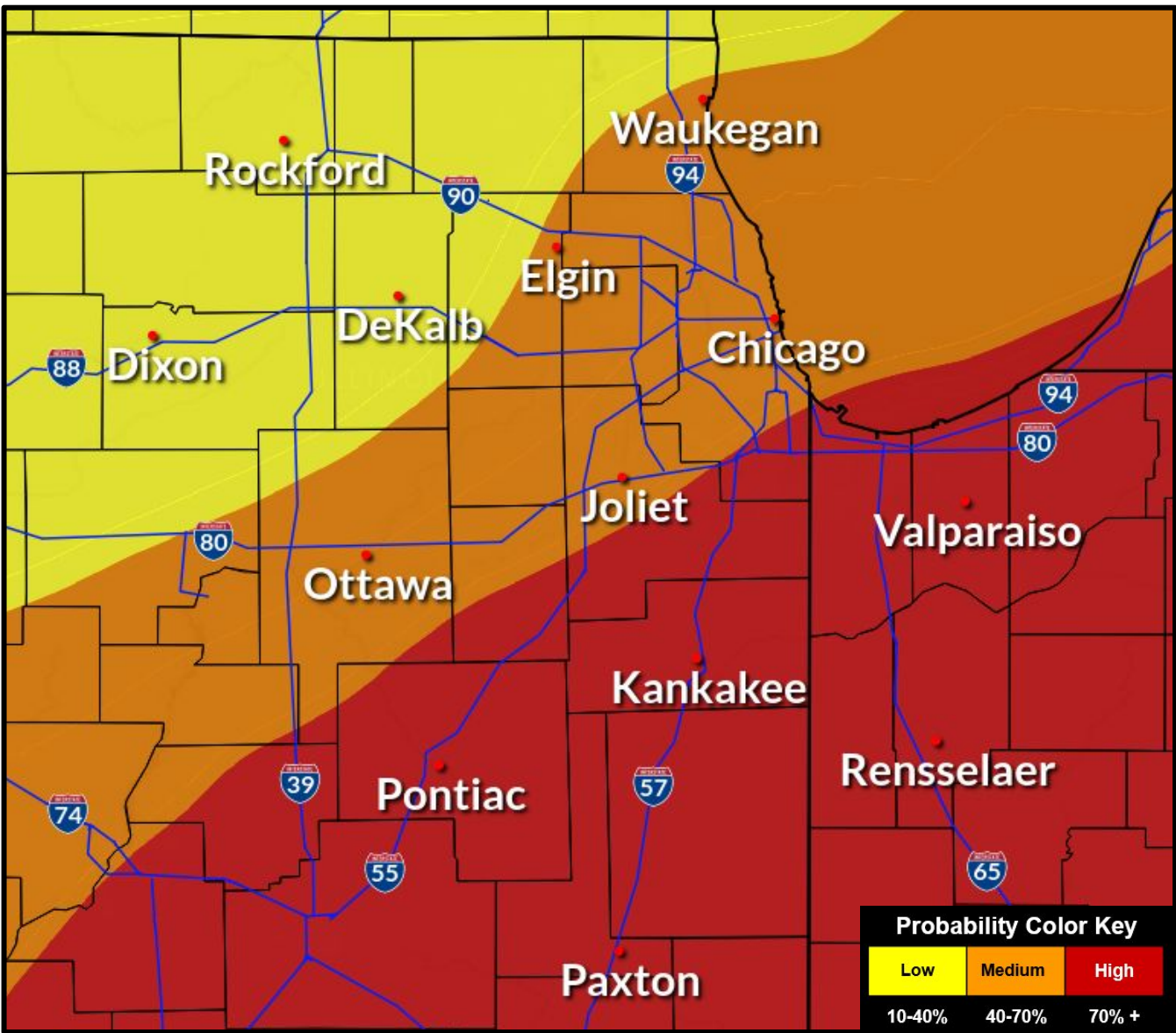
Sharp cut-off again along northwest side - *will be tighter than shown on map.*



What can go wrong in our forecast?

Path of 2nd wave may track further southeast than currently expected, and miss our area entirely.

Chance of > 4" of snow





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Additional Considerations

Additional Notes:

- Low-intensity snow will “bridge the gap” between the two rounds of snow, with rates up to 0.25”/hr.
- Gusty northeast winds of 25 to 30 mph will lead to pockets of blowing snow particularly Thursday afternoon even though snow won’t be overly powdery.
- Modest lake enhancement may occur in Cook county, IL, but set-up is not as favorable as previous winter storms.



Photo: Kik Gunnar Zinj





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Additional Resources

Additional Resources:

[Winter Weather Safety and Preparedness](#)

[Winter Weather Liaison Webpage](#)

[Graphical Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)

[NWS Chicago Headline Criteria](#)

Find us on social media!

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Five Reminders for Winter Weather Forecasting



1 Snow or ice totals can vary greatly over short distances

A heavy snow band may form, dropping more snow in one location while significantly less snow falls just a few miles away.





2 Winter forecasts can change frequently

Forecasts may change as new model data becomes available. Always check weather.gov for the latest information.



3 Focus more on the winter storm's impacts

Don't focus too much on exact numbers, and consider the full range of possibilities.



4 Know your winter weather terminology

If a Watch is issued, get prepared for hazardous weather. If a Warning or Advisory is issued, take action – hazardous weather is occurring or will occur soon.





5 Rely on a dependable source for weather info

Choose your information sources wisely, and follow a name or organization you know and trust.

